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(11)

EP 0 695 827 A3

(12)

## EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:  
21.05.1997 Bulletin 1997/21

(51) Int Cl.<sup>6</sup>: D21F 1/00, D21F 7/10

(43) Date of publication A2:  
07.02.1996 Bulletin 1996/06

(21) Application number: 95303854.4

(22) Date of filing: 06.06.1995

(84) Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE DE ES FR GB IT NL SE

(30) Priority: 09.06.1994 US 257565  
25.04.1995 US 428661

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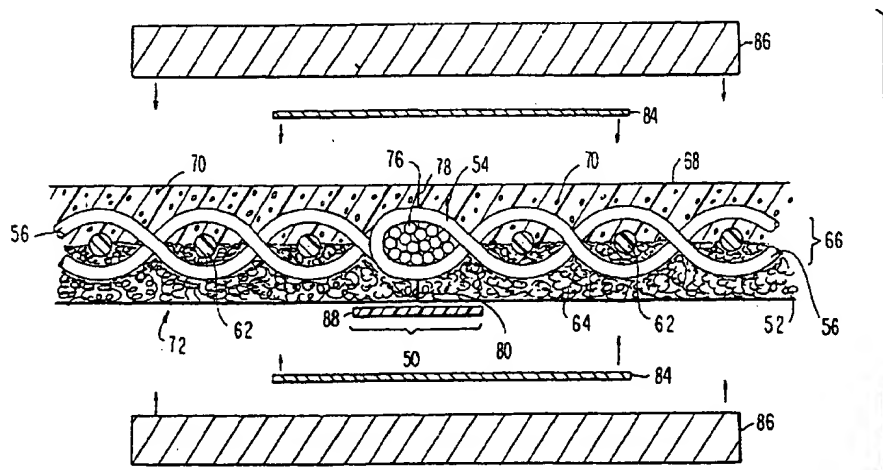
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### (54) Method of seam closure for sheet transfer and other paper processing belts

(57) A loop-and-pintle seam in a paper-processing belt (72) having a polymeric-resin coating (68) is closed by covering the seam on the uncoated side with an encapsulating material, so that the seam area (50) has compression properties substantially identical to those of the remainder of the belt. After installing the belt (72) and closing the pin seam with a pintle (76), the seam

region (50) is impregnated on the non-paper side with a viscous paste comprising a polymeric-resin material and a blowing agent. The paste is heated to create a foam that fills the voids in the seam region (50) and the slit (78) in the coating (68), before being cured. Alternatively, a solid foam strip (88) of a polymeric resin may be glued to the seam region (50). The belt may be used as a transfer or long-nip-press (LNP) belt.

FIG. 7



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 95 30 3854

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	WO 93 17161 A (SCANDIAFELT AB)	1,3,13, 15-18, 20,21, 25-27	D21F1/00 D21F7/10
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A	AT 388 574 A (HUYCK AUSTRIA GESELLSCHAFT)		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			D21F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 20 March 1997	Examiner De Rijck, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 01.92 (P0401)